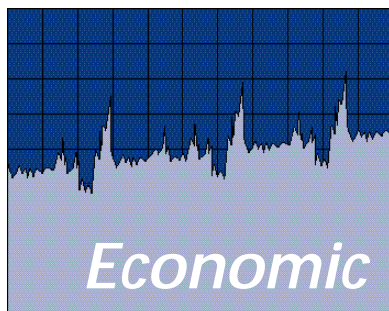


EMPLOYER UPDATE

Mountainland Edition

July 2000



Forecast

Economic events can have an impact upon businesses. Economic developments in the Mountainland Region may uncover new business opportunities or reveal the potential to develop a new customer base. They also illustrate how businesses are doing in our area, or the development of activities and potential of our area.

The economic unit within DWS maintains an Internet website where selected current economic events for Utah, Summit, and Wasatch counties are displayed. The economic events are

Tour of Local Business Provides Needed insight

Jack Robinson of the Payson Employment Center was recently taken on a tour of Banta ISG in Spanish Fork. Debi Steadman, Human Resource Director at Banta, met Jack for an inside look at employer needs in the printing industry.

It was a real eye opener as Debi gave Jack a candid perspective of business at Banta. Jack was then better able to assess their personnel needs and made plans for recruitment

included on the website page that centers upon economic indicators, events, and data for each of these counties. Economic events are gleaned from local papers and other business sources, and listed in a chronological order based upon calendar date.

Events are updated regularly, but in the smaller Summit and Wasatch counties, significant economic events may not occur with such regularity. But, these counties are monitored on a regular basis so that when significant economic events do occur, they will be reported. Utah County, being larger, generally has more events to report, and is thus updated frequently.

We encourage you to visit this website at:
<http://wi.dws.state.ut.us/Regions/mountainland/mountain.htm>.

This website utilizes Adobe Acrobat Reader, which can be downloaded for free on our home page.

and employment exchange activities. A few weeks later, Debi faxed over several job orders -- getting to know each other better does make a difference.

If you are interested in having a business consultant tour your facility, or are interested in other services we provide, contact the business consultant nearest you. A listing is in the blue box to the right.

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We're here to help you...

Business Consultants

Joyce Johnson	342-2704
Debbie Fotheringham	763-4484
Alan Christofferson	342-2702
Jack Robinson	465-5316
Tom Anderson	(435) 647-6531 (extension #31)

The staff direct job fairs, mass recruitments, employer education, etc. Call any of them for more information.

Regional Economist:

Mark Knold	526-9458
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State of Utah

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The Power of Partnership

The development of UWORKS is an enlightening example of public/private sector partnerships. The project required leaders from all levels of government to work with private sector software developers at Oracle, to build a one-stop case management system. The project, entitled "UWORKS," has been under development since September 1998.

Driven by massive changes in federal welfare reform, the UWORKS system is designed to link end-users to a central information repository containing almost any type of data they might need. Currently, DWS employment counselors must navigate through multiple systems to provide services formerly delivered by five separate agencies. The new system will simplify things considerably.

"The evolution of the welfare program was focused more on employment," said John Davenport, Information Analyst for DWS. "When Congress passed the Welfare-to-Work Program it provided additional funding for the most needy individuals along with job training; this meant we had to handle multiple functions."

Specifically, UWORKS is a case management system that supports the capturing of data about job seekers, employers, and service providers to support meaningful employment for the job seeker.

Functionally the system tracks the job seeker through such phases as intake, assessment, program eligibility, employment planning, activity funding, job search and placement.

Oracle was chosen because it

We're on the web!

*See this newsletter
and others at:*

<http://north.dws.state.ut.us/empnews.htm>

<http://central.dws.state.ut.us/newsletter/cennewslet.htm>

<http://mountain.dws.state.ut.us/newslet.htm>

<http://east.dws.state.ut.us/newsletter/newslet.htm>

<http://west.dws.state.ut.us/newsletter.htm>

could design and develop a large, multi-task database that contains all of the Workforce Investment Act information and Welfare Reform information in one place.

The overall purpose of the project is to develop an automated job matching and career counseling system that will provide

UWORKS will provide automated job matching and career counseling to better serve job seekers and employers alike.

accountability, tracking and reporting of all services provided by our Employment Centers (Utah's One Stops) and the Internet (self-service or "No Stop").

The system is being designed to support Utah and other interested states in the delivery of employment and training services. To provide the information the system must have the ability to transfer assets and communicate with other systems. This

means Utah's system has to be available to other states as well as the federal government.

Developing UWORKS was a major undertaking that would not have been possible without successful partnerships that are almost unprecedented in today's highly competitive and regulated climate. "It took a lot of coordination and cooperation with all of the entities involved," stated Paul Peterson, Senior Systems Analyst with DWS. "We worked with the Labor Department, Human Services and the Department of Agriculture, as well as with the various entities in Oracle and America's Job Bank."

The arrival of the completed program is very much anticipated by employment counselors and front line staff. UWORKS will go a long way to reduce stress. "We are excited about the ability to use technology to further the success of our customers," said Robin Parker in the Cedar City Employment Center.

Statewide implementation of UWORKS is scheduled for this month.

New Unemployment Insurance Web Pages for Employers

You need answers. Fast. The answers to most common questions asked about Unemployment Insurance (UI) quarterly wage reporting and tax filing are now available at your fingertips. Last month, the UI Contributions Section quietly introduced new web pages under the Unemployment Insurance heading of our website @ www.dws.state.ut.us.

The website contains instructions, definitions, requirements and forms related to state unemployment tax. Employers and tax professionals can quickly find the answers to such questions as:

- What are the minimum and maximum tax rates?

- How does a new employer establish an account?

- What is the current taxable wage base?

The employers' list of menu items includes UI Employer Registration, UI Tax Rates, Quarterly Reporting, Tax Forms, UI Tax Publications, Employer Appeals, UI Rules, UI Laws and Contact Us!

Response has been positive; one employer called immediately to say that "all the information... needed was there and was very accessible." Information continues to be added to the new web pages, and plans are under way to offer on line transaction of most UI reporting and filing activities by July 2002.

We're in the spotlight...

DWS will host the Interstate Conference of Employment Security Agencies (ICESA) Annual Conference in September. Workforce development representatives from around the nation will enjoy a reception and dinner at the Olympic Sports Park, entertainment by the USA ski-jumping team, a tour of the LDS Visitor's Center, and a performance by the world-famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir. The conference will be held at the Little America Hotel. For more information, contact Tracey Leetham at (801) 526-9204.



it's only a myth...

Myth #4:

Workforce Services has only low skilled or entry level applicants.

Reality:

Recent data shows a year-to-date total of 55,971 applicants registered for services at our Employment Centers. Those applicants represent the full spectrum of professional and non-professional skill levels.

During that same time period there were over 49,706 job openings received as well as 3,746 first-time employers served.

Watch for more myths in upcoming editions.

Kudos...

"Thanks for taking a little stress off a small business person...I was doubly impressed with your added effort to put me at ease and answer my [UI tax] questions. This level of service is not experienced every day in government or in business. I hope you will share this letter...to indicate my appreciation for your professional proficiency."

*H. Gray Otis
Heritage Hardwood Floors
American Fork*

"I have never seen an employment agency that has worked so hard to help with recruitment."

*Darin, Manager
New Winger's in Tooele*

"Thank you for hosting the Taylorsville City and DWS Job Fair. The feedback received has been very positive. All 16 employers were very impressed with the customer service and quality of your staff...and have requested we do this again."

*Bruce Wasden
Taylorsville City Council Member*

"I would like to thank you and your staff for your assistance with our study on One-Stop Career Centers...The staff at the Metro, So. County, Provo North, Kanab and St. George centers were very helpful and attentive."

*Gale Harris
U.S. General Accounting Office*

Utah Department of Workforce Services
Executive Director's Office
140 East 300 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

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Mountainland Region

"Employers in the Know"

This series of employer seminars is offered by the DWS Utah County Employer Committee. The next seminar is entitled "Electronic Labor Exchange... What's New and How to Access it" and will be held on Tuesday, July 18. Registration and breakfast are at 7:30 am, and the seminar is from 7:45 am to noon.

General Job Fair

August 23, 2000 • 2:00 - 6:00 pm

The Job Fair and the Employer Seminar are held at and in partnership with the Mountainland Advanced Technology Center at 987 So. Geneva Rd., Orem.

To reserve your space for the job fair, or register for the seminar please contact: Joyce Johnson at 342-2704, fax at 342-2679, or e-mail at

Favorite Services of Employers *by Debbie Fotheringham*

There are a variety of services now available in local employment centers which are becoming more and more popular with employers. The following services are offered for free:

- Testing for clerical skills such as 10-key, spelling, and key boarding.
- Use of our facilities to conduct interviews, tests, etc.
- Information on accepted interviewing and employment practices.
- Free Internet job postings nationwide.
- Connection to America's Job Bank, largest job matching service in the U.S.
- Mass recruitments on-site.

Mini Job Fair Schedule

Provo Employment Center:
1st and 3rd Tuesday
of each month. To register
call Joyce @ 342-2704

Payson Employment
Center: 1st and 3rd Friday
of each month. To register
call Jack @ 465-5316

American Fork
Employment Center: 3rd
Thursday of each month.
To register call Debbie @
763-4484

Visit us on the web at:
www.dws.state.ut.us